

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ACDA-19 MBFR-03 GAC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 061218

R 131137 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0489

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04379

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, CZ

SUBJECT: PRESS ANNOUNCES WILSON VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. LONDON "TIMES" APRIL 13 ANNOUNCED HAROLD WILSON 3- DAY VISIT TO PRAGUE APRIL 14. NO ITINERARY HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AND THERE IS NO INDICATION WHOM HE WILL SEE ON THE VISIT. "TIMES" COMMENTS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT HAS CAUSED A "STIR" IN LABOR PARTY CIRCLES.
 2. EDITORIAL IN THE SAME ISSUE STATES THAT PRAGUE REGIME IS MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FOREIGN RELATIONS WHILE MAINTAINING RELATIVELY HARD AND REPRESSIVE INTERNAL POSTURE. MENTION IS MADE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA AND OF RECENT VISIT TO LONDON AND BONN OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RUZEK. EDITORIAL ADDS THAT WILSON VISIT WILL BE USED TO SUGGEST THAT BRITISH LEFT HAVE FORGOTTEN 1968. IT STATES, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH DR. HUSAK MAY BE PRESSING FOR MORE MODERATE LINE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO SATISFY INTERNAL OPPOSITION AND WORLD OPINION THAT REGIME IS ON NEW AND MORE HOPEFUL COURSE. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT MR. WILSON SHOULD GO TO PRAGUE
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WITH SCEPTICAL BUT OPEN MIND.

3. COMMENT: ON APRIL 6 A SOVIET DIPLOMAT HERE
INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT WILSON VISIT TO PRAGUE
WOULD TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 14. ON APRIL 10 IN REPLY TO
A QUERY, A CZECH DIPLOMAT INFORMED US THAT RUZEK
VISIT WAS REGULAR ROUTINE VISIT FOR CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN CZECH AND FCO OFFICIALS.

SOHM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CZ, UK
To: BUCHAREST
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SECSTATE WASHDC
SOFIA

Type: TE

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